

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Unseasonably warm weather prevailed over much of the State last week. High temperatures generally ranged in the seventies; Medford, Pendleton, Roseburg and Ontario had highs of just over eighty degrees. March was dry for several eastern Oregon counties and more precipitation is desired. Warm weather is providing good opportunities for fieldwork, however. In Sherman County, rain early in the week, followed by warm temperatures, helped crop growth. Winter moisture in Morrow County was adequate, and more is needed to fill soil profiles. Clackamas and Polk counties received some light nighttime frost; Washington County experienced nearly half an inch of rain for the week.

Field Crops: Producers were busy working on equipment and preparing fields for planting. Spring planting is well underway in some areas. The winter wheat and alfalfa crops appear to have survived the winter with very little damage. Statewide, additional rain would be welcomed in order to "kick start" pasture and crop growth. In Wasco County, winter wheat fields came through the winter with very little erosion problems. Sugarbeet planting has begun in Malheur County. Despite a relatively dry March, many irrigation reservoirs in the eastern part of the State are either full or filling at a higher than normal rate.

Vegetables: Weather across Oregon was warm for this time of year but too early for planting most vegetables. In the Willamette Valley, vegetable beds were being prepared and rhubarb was up and growing. In Klamath County, fieldwork had started and growers were receiving seed potatoes. Onion planting was well underway and potato planting started in Malheur County.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries are very busy digging and shipping plant material to out-of-state locations, mainly east of the Mississippi River. Greenhouses are shipping spring plants, Easter lilies, and bedding plants to retail outlets. Planting of Christmas tree fields is winding down. Flower growers are having their open houses and field days, and with the warm weather, attendance has been excellent. Field grown Easter lily development was normal on the southern Oregon coast.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Calving season was in full swing with excellent weather conditions for calving reported across the State. Many producers began grazing fields earlier than normal in western Oregon due to the drier conditions. Most pasture and rangeland reported to be in fair to good condition. Spring moisture would be beneficial for most rangeland, especially for drier areas in the southeastern portion of the State.

Fruit and Nuts: Many fruits and nuts were in various stages of bloom last week. Honey bees were brought in multiple counties to aid in pollination. Most fruits and berries in Lane County were near or past full bloom; apples were pre-pink in the early varieties. Control sprays were applied throughout the Willamette Valley on fruit and nut trees. Warm days in Hood River County accelerated bud development in pear, apple, and cherry trees. Frost fans and heating were used early in the week when radiation frost conditions developed. Blueberries developed new leaf growth and some blossoms on the southern Oregon coast. Cranberry development ranged from white bud and cabbagehead to early shoot elongation.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 4/4/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley planted (%)	60	—	26	56
Barley emerged (%)	32	—	6	—
Spring wheat planted (%)	62	—	47	54
Spring wheat emerged (%)	25	—	13	—
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.8	—	—	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 4/4/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	2	19	69	10
Subsoil (%)	1	16	79	4

Crop Condition - Week Ending 4/4/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	—	4	37	46	13
Barley (%)	—	2	44	42	12
Range & Pasture (%)	—	7	42	36	15

WESTERN OREGON

CLACKAMAS: Field conditions have been excellent for spring seeding. Warm, dry days and some light frost at night have been prevalent for the week, with less than one fourth of an inch of rain. Ideal calving and grass growing weather. Nursery harvest and shipping going well. Christmas tree planting slowing down.

COOS/CURRY: Blueberries were developing new leaf growth and some blossoms. Cranberry development ranged from white bud and cabbagehead to early shoot elongation, depending upon age and location of beds. Field grown Easter lily development was mostly normal; greenhouse producers of Easter lilies were preparing plants for distribution. Some cattle were being turned out onto bottomland pastures earlier than normal, due to drier than average conditions during March. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Surface Water Supply Index for the south coast river basin was -0.4 through February, which is slightly below normal. According to the Oregon Climate Service, precipitation in Coos and Curry counties for the period October 2003 through February 2004 ranged from 92 percent of normal at Langlois to 131 percent of normal at Brookings. Dry weather has prevailed in both counties since March 31 and surface soils were drying rapidly. March precipitation at Bandon was 3.80 inches below the normal of 7.47 inches.

LANE: Winter grain and grass seed coming along well. Some freeze damage over the winter to fruit. Mint regrowing. Prunes done blooming; peaches near bloom's end. Cherries and pears in full bloom. Apples pre-pink on early varieties. Kiwi frozen hard last week. Blueberries near bloom's end; blackberries and raspberries need good growth. Lane County Farmers Market started April 3. Lots of greenhouse vegetables. Excellent start with perfect market weather. Soils still too wet for tilling but getting close. Greenhouse and nurseries in full production. Selling began April 1 in many areas. Sheep grazing the local fields. Range and pasture good.

MARION: Field and grain crops growing well. Weather has allowed for sprays and fertilizers are timely. Warm, sunny late weather and early spring are making fruits and berries bloom early and fully. In ground nursery stock are being dug and shipped without delay. Range and pasture excellent. All ground preparation is on schedule without weather delays. Weather is very warm for this time of year.

POLK: Cherry growers have been struggling to get bees from California, since bloom has been about two weeks earlier than normal. Weather conditions have been excellent. No significant rainfall has occurred; however, a few nights have been clear and frost has occurred.

WASHINGTON: Clover growing rapidly; alfalfa looking good. Wheat in well drained fields better than average. Spraying in peaches; strawberries growing well. Hazelnuts leafed out. Honey bees placed in blueberry fields. Vegetable beds being prepared; rhubarb growing. Rotating potted plants; balling and shipping larger trees. Grazing fields are still soggy but some are pasturing. Four tenths of an inch of rain for the week, all in a short time. Haag Lake Reservoir full for irrigation season.

YAMHILL: Control sprays are being applied to hazelnuts for Eastern Filbert Blight; peaches, plums and cherries for brown rot blossom blight; and apples for apple scab.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Very little activity except field preparation and grain planting. Range and pasture good. Calving winding down. Branding underway.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Some carrots lost to freezing temperatures. Generally crops look good. Warm weather has brought on grass growth. Need precipitation due to surface drying out quickly. Spring planting continues with dry and warm conditions.

HARNEY: Hay fields getting their spring treatments, fertilizer, weed spray, dragging, gopher and ground squirrel control. Range and pasture fair. Good winter moisture set us up for a good year, but March was dry and range production is highly dependent on spring rains.

HOOD RIVER: Continued warm days accelerated bud development on pear, apple, and cherry trees throughout the Hood River Valley. The d'Anjou pear was at first bloom to full bloom (WSU stages 6 & 7); Red Delicious apple at first pink (WSU stage 5); Bing cherry at first bloom to full bloom (WSU stages 7 & 8); Pinot noir grapes at doeskin (Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 3). Frost fans and heating were used early in the week when radiation frost conditions developed.

KLAMATH: "False Spring" has started field work, but too early for most planting here yet. Growers are receiving seed potatoes. Getting fields and equipment ready for the season. There is no pasture available yet, as it is still late winter. There has been some early turn-out in irrigated pasture.

MALHEUR: Winter wheat and alfalfa look good. Sugarbeet and onion planting well underway. Potato planting started. Cattle condition good. Range condition variable but mostly good. Weather mostly warmer than normal. Fields drying up fast. Waiting for irrigation water. Range is very dry right now; some spring rains could really be used right now. Excellent weather for fieldwork. All irrigation reservoirs are filling at a rate higher than expected. A good rain is needed to consolidate the ground moisture.

MORROW: Dryland spring planting done. Summerfallow operations and herbicide applications continue. Spring fieldwork continues on irrigated ground. We have had adequate moisture this winter, but need much more to fill soil profiles. Earlier precipitation and warmer temperatures have increased production on average over past years. Limited barley planting.

SHERMAN: Fieldwork and spraying continue. Received about 0.5 to 0.6 inches of rain last week, followed by warm temperatures that really perked up the grain. Rapid growth, looks like a much better stand now.

WALLOWA: Need rain to help maintain and/or improve moisture levels. Range is just starting to "green-up" and spring work is beginning in earnest. As one farmer said, "The first nice day, I'm already a week behind"!

WASCO: Spring has taken off like gang busters. Day time temperatures through March ran several degrees above normal, with nearly an inch of annual precipitation recorded. Most fruit trees reached full bloom and honey bees were being rotated every few days to get uniform pollination. Night time temperatures this past week held in the low forties and only limited use of frost fans were needed. Grass on pasture and ranges are putting on excellent growth. Spring calving is in full swing. Heavy snow through January nearly used up all hay supplies. A few cattlemen are starting to mark and vaccinate their early calves. Wheat fields came through the winter with very little erosion. Winter wheat plants are putting on rapid growth.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING April 4, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	32	68	50	4	12	5	0.34	-0.98	1	53.03	-1.80	97	143
Crescent City	37	63	50	1	7	-12	0.71	-0.81	2	48.55	-7.49	87	121
Florence	30	72	49	2	8	1	0.22	-1.42	1	60.82	-3.07	95	138
North Bend	34	70	49	2	5	-2	0.38	-1.04	1	56.12	2.38	104	135
Tillamook	29	73	49	4	15	8	0.21	-1.61	2	68.16	-4.68	94	148
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	30	75	51	5	22	14	0.14	-0.64	1	26.33	-9.78	73	104
Eugene	31	76	50	1	12	-2	0.27	-0.70	1	32.15	-9.60	77	117
Hillsboro	32	77	51	4	21	12	0.02	-0.66	2	25.96	-5.31	83	121
McMinnville	30	75	51	3	19	8	0.06	-0.76	2	27.58	-9.49	74	119
Portland AP	35	77	54	5	33	19	0.14	-0.52	1	24.74	-4.37	85	116
Salem	30	76	50	4	18	11	0.17	-0.55	1	31.63	-1.07	97	123
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	33	79	53	3	30	9	0.56	-0.02	2	25.29	-1.93	93	94
Medford	31	81	52	4	28	11	0.36	0.02	1	16.98	1.41	109	93
Roseburg AP	33	80	52	3	26	8	0.70	0.04	1	28.76	1.19	104	113
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	27	65	43	2	2	0	0.15	-0.13	1	12.42	2.77	129	66
Heppner	29	79	46	1	8	1	0.01	-0.34	1	9.12	-0.34	96	89
Hermiston AP	24	74	50	2	18	4	0.04	-0.15	1	6.94	0.26	104	66
John Day	27	71	46	3	14	7	0.16	-0.12	1	6.93	-1.00	87	80
Moro	26	67	47	4	13	6	0.00	-0.21	0	8.75	0.40	105	68
Pendleton AP	30	80	51	4	25	13	0.07	-0.19	1	9.04	0.37	104	71
The Dalles	31	73	53	8	27	20	0.00	-0.21	0	11.55	1.73	118	84
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	22	77	43	3	4	-2	0.00	-0.15	0	9.93	1.43	117	61
Burns AP	22	74	46	7	6	2	0.00	-0.20	0	6.37	-0.21	97	64
Klamath Falls	18	70	44	4	2	-5	0.04	-0.17	1	10.04	-0.36	97	80
Lakeview	27	70	44	5	1	-4	0.00	-0.30	0	7.96	-3.18	71	48
Redmond	21	79	45	4	5	-2	0.02	-0.12	1	6.70	1.05	119	63
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	23	72	46	5	10	3	0.00	-0.21	0	4.43	-1.61	73	63
Joseph	22	69	42	5	1	1	0.19	-0.23	1	7.93	-9.71	45	79
La Grande AP	27	73	49	6	21	14	0.00	-0.35	0	7.29	-4.41	62	67
Union	22	72	48	5	15	8	0.00	-0.28	0	8.58	0.58	107	85
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	27	81	53	6	31	17	0.00	-0.17	0	6.19	-0.90	87	50
Rome	23	78	51	8	18	11	0.07	-0.12	1	3.70	-1.18	76	49

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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